Title: Interview with Patty Green

Date: April 13, 2025

Location: The Weathered Porch, Crisfield.

Interviewer(s): John Golladay and Eva Arnold

Interviewee: Patty Green

Introduction: Patty Green talks about what it was like growing up in Crisfield and how things have changed since she has been living there for nearly 70 years. She talks about the business that she runs and how she prepares for tide water, and how she has seen the community and the seafood industry grow and shrink over the years.

[Transcription begins]

John Golladay (Golladay): All right, we're here April 12, 2025, I'm an interviewer, John Golladay, as well as…

Eva Arnold (Arnold): Eva Arnold.

Golladay: And we're here today at the Weather Porch in Crisfield, Maryland with…

Patty Green (Green): Patty Green.

Golladay: Ms. Patty Green. So, alright, first things first, how long have you lived here in the Crisfield area?

Green: Most of my life I've lived here, oh actually all of my life, born and raised here, many years. I'd rather not say that, how many years?

Golladay: Alright, well, how was- how was your experience like living around here, how is that?

Green: Well, it's changed drastically, but growing up it was very good, enjoyable, loved it. The town was booming, had stores, every street, down every side street of every kind. It was small mom and pop groceries. It was of shoe stores, clothing stores, furniture stores, hardware stores, you know, many, many of that. And as time's gone on, probably 80s, I would say, you started seeing more people travel out of town, going to Salisbury to shop, to buy clothing, go out to dinner, furniture, and little by little it took away from the local businesses to the point where one

by one they would close and we didn't have the opportunity that we'd had, you know, earlier on so and it's- it's graduated to that, you know, the seafood industry has gotten smaller. But we still have lots of seafood. I mean, you know, people that crab and oyster, they still do that and fish. But compared to back when I was growing up, it has decreased. And it's more of a tourist town, a destination for people to come here that camp at James Island State Park, they kayak, they come, and then there are some people that- that do hunt and people come to fish and enjoy the water. There's no doubt about that. And they come here to actually go on the Tangier and Smith Island visits, you know, and they stay there and enjoy that a little bit, a little mini-vacay to get away from hustle bustle of city life.

Arnold: So, when you said people started going elsewhere to do shopping of all sorts around the 80s, do you think it was more local people or do you the tourism decreased by that point?

Green: Well, we didn't have that much tourism back then. This was a self-sufficient town. You had big industry. Mrs. Paul's kitchen did food. You had Carver Hall Cutlery that made knives, and- and- and that had been probably since the early 1900s that Charles Burdell was a blacksmith doing things for the watermen until the 50's when he made the knife factory. We did get, later on with that, busloads, tours for that company. But we had a bakery and until that, I think that, well that burnt, so they never did rebuild that back. The bakery was outstanding and ever, and it produced a lot of jobs. I mean, the locals needless to say what there I mean couldn't get anything better, it was so fresh, and the local support, the one thing I noticed, not growing up, but as- as an adult, the locals supported all of them. Faithfully, from the clothing stores, the shoe stores, jewelry stores, I mean, you had dry cleaners, you had factories that did sewing, sewing factories, cap-making factories. I mean, you had two and three four hardware stores. I mean, you had a multitude of everything, as well as, like I said, you have big chain store groceries, you know, from ACME, AMP. We had a lot of those, and then they changed as years went on, and department stores, and we had a Sears catalog store, and as well, as small clothier, clothier, you know, stores. So, we didn't need anything or want for anything. They even had places that you could actually, not just banks, but lenders that lent money. You could actually go and do that. And for the locals, it was good because I'm sure they- they weren't making that much money back then in the seafood. So they, the furniture stores, I remember as a child, one of the furniture stories, it literally would come week to week for you to pay them what you had. If it was $5, he wrote it down in a book until you got your merchandise. It was like your little credit thing going on until you get your merchandise paid for. So there are things that I remember, you know, and- and you know you didn't- you didn't believe in locking doors. I mean nobody did that. It was the neighborly thing. Everybody went to everybody's house and sat down and have coffee, families would come to one sibling's house with all the families, the brothers and sisters to have dinner on a Sunday, you know, it was all that. So very close knit.

Arnold: What are some of your most cherished memories of Crisfield, whether it be childhood or- or into adulthood?

Green: Well, in each area of my life, childhood is, you know, it takes, I mean, a number one. That was excellent. You couldn't ask for it to be any better. As you grew older, it was the interaction with the students and as you got into high school and they- they would bring Smith Island kids over on the boat and we got to interact with them and then became good friends and even to this day still are. That was outstanding. We had the train that was not- that we knew what they were doing with it because, I mean, it didn't come down to the dock like it did before. They had stopped it as you would come in, just as you come into town. It would go down and it would go out on 7th Street. But it was just fun to see it, you know, I mean, that was when I was probably 16 and just learning how to drive and you literally had to wait for the train to cross the crossing to- to keep on driving. When they put the, what we call the strip, and they did the circle around, and Governor Tawes was responsible for that, if I'm not mistaken, thinking that he wanted to spruce up Crisfield, give it a little pizzazz for the people that would be coming here as tourists and seeing and beautifying it a little bit with trees and- and all that. But the teenagers loved it, loved it loved it. You know, everybody was chasing everybody all around the strip, you know, every night. So that was the- the excitement. So yeah, it tells you a little bit, don't it? We had movie theaters; movies were outstanding, the movie theaters. Some of my favorite times and and- and, you know, just good places to go, restaurants, and right now there's Gordon's, that's been here forever. I and everybody supported it and they still do. That's the little hot spot. The gossip shop is what I call it.

Golladay: So like, what do you do nowadays to like entertain yourself in Crisfield?

Green: Me and well, I mean you go out to dinner, if you want to do something like that, if you got friends or if you have boats or something like that for entertainment might go out on the boat to go fishing, go out to Old Island. There's a little beach area there for a little privacy. We've got a small beach here if you wanted to go out there, people go to, you know, on weekends, if they don't go out of town. They'll go to the American Legion or to the Elks, you know, for dinners or what have you on the weekends. And now and then, they'll have an event, you know, for a holiday. And they bring in, you know, like Memorial Day, you'll always have that. The Fourth of July fireworks. I mean, you'll have little small events that they'll bring to town. The car show comes here to draw people in and which is very nice. I mean that brings a lot to town and they block off two or three blocks for that car show and then and as of last year, I mean, it seems like to me it's getting bigger and bigger, because they have to keep extending it on out. I said, okay, so that's good. In the past we've had country music festivals that were outstanding and I've always said I don't know who planned those back in the day when we had Brooks and Dunn and all the name entertainers. Whoever planned it and organized it was outstandingly on point because it was- it was just like a well-oiled machine. Where you parked, they made sure they knew where you parked as you're coming in. They would take you, bus you to the location. They had the buses leaving every half an hour or so- so you could come and go. I mean, there was no, no problems. That's what amazed me, that it just went perfectly. You couldn't ask for it to be any better. And considering the size of our little town, that says- that says a lot, so I mean it was very

well done and they're slowly but surely now bringing that back little by little, small, you know, events like that, bringing in some name. In fact, I think they're got one coming up in May. Yeah, yeah, so they're just- they're starting, you know, it's like baby steps and trying to get back in that. New people managing it and handling it and we used to have Scorchy Tawes, well-known WBOC, you know, I mean, he was one of our people that he had fishing tournaments in his honor. I remember as a teenager, well, this- this fellow, everybody knew him. He did all the photos in this town for everybody. I don't think there was anybody he didn't photograph. And as a- for the prom or for, you know, whatever. And he did all of the photos. You know, he did aerial photos and all kinds of things of Crisfield. So, well-known fellow, very nice, very nice man. So I mean, there are the things that I remember. And- and now, like I said, people come here to eat good seafood, boat, and as far as the locals, I mean, we do the same thing. I mean, now we go out of town to go to dinner too. I mean, you know, you still are going out of the town to shop. I mean, but for the most part, we- we kind of stay, you know, close-knit, low crime. I'm not saying we don't have any. I think every place has got something. But no, nothing serious. It's just quiet, laid back. You can walk across the street anytime and not have to worry about anything. People walk their dogs, they walk, I walk. I mean, I'll walk to the beach when the weather's permitting every day. So, I mean, that said, there's things to do, more of activities than anything. If you like, like I said, if you like the job or if you'd like to walk, bicycle. If you want to camp, we've got James Island. You can go from James Island all down the little beaches if you've got a kayak or a small boat, a skiff or something like that and- and enjoy the beaches. You can go look for arrowheads, you can look for sea glass, driftwood. And you know, it's all kinds of things you can do if you've got the means to do that. And then people come here now for the- the crab place, does the crab and cruise on the weekends, starting probably around Memorial Day, and they provide entertainment. And then you come here to- right behind the Weathered Porch is the Stephen Thomas cruise boat. So they'll get on that, and he will ride them around the Tangier Sound after they've had their dinner. They can have a pleasant boat ride. And I noticed in usually July when you have fireworks, I've watched him take the boat and it's, you know, almost over and just as the fireworks, he docks it out right in the middle of the sound for all of them to watch the fireworks out from the boat. So that's good, you know, we all like that, you know, the locals never get tired of that.

Arnold: I know you talked a lot about the role of the- the bay and the seafood and all that kind of stuff plays in social life and community. What changes have you noticed in the land, weather, water, or flooding in Crisfield since you were younger?

Green: Okay, well we always have floods, but most of the time it was during, well, we had, well flood of '62, that was a Nor'easter and- and that was deep and we still get them. So I've noticed that now that I'm in business and I'm the middle of it and right near the water and I tell everybody, if you want things near the water, get ready to have water and not the kind that you want. Better have your boots, have them handy and prepare, because a Nor'easter and a full moon and the way the wind's blowing and all that and- and the high tide, we're going to get it.

There's no doubt about it. So you have to pay attention. We don't look forward to that very often. Believe me, hurricanes, it doesn't matter what- what year it was, you know, if it was when I was a kid or now, you're always going to have that tide, you're going to have that destruction. It's going to be deep. There's no doubt about it. We don't want them, but you know sometimes we don't have a choice on that. I've- I've found that Nor'easters are more problem than anything. I mean, I wasn't privy to that when I was younger. I'm not saying it didn't happen but you know, as a kid you don't pay any attention to it, you just think it's fun. I'm sure the parents didn't think so but and I've seen during hurricanes that they- that they brought around, we had the National Guard here, stationed here. So they would come around to the neighborhoods and literally make you get out of your house and take you to our armory until everything receded and what have you. I remember that as a child, that- that we did that. And we've always had the hospital, and that floods, you know, down in that area, because it's right on the water. We never paid any attention to it, because we figured, you know, that- that's normal here. You're going to have that. Now, as time's gone on, the infrastructure of Crisfield, the plumbing just will say, it needs to be redone. There's no doubt about it. It's going to be a major undertaking to do that. I think they've got plans to do that, but how and when and- and where it's probably going to be strategically done so that it's not going to shut down the whole town. But, that drainage needs to, you know, be addressed and that's- that's part of that. So the drainage makes it hard, some roads even on rain get flooded, not all but there's certain areas of Crisfield that does not get flooded. But if you're on the southern end or the, you know, if you right near the water, you're going to get it. There's no doubt about it. If it's in some lower lying area, it takes longer to drain off. That's why I said the drainage is gonna mean a lot when they put in a new plumbing under Crisfield. And cause a lot of- it's probably old, collapsed, you know. So, they've got to address that and they'll- they'll engineers will figure out where that's gonna get done and when. But- but, for the most part, the storms and all, it's just what everybody would have to deal with. In fact, I think we've had it better than most places. From what I've seen, people are getting hit all over the country. And we've never, I mean, we've had, I think, our hurricane Sandy, it was bad. It was bad, there was no doubt about it. It was extremely bad and it took a long time to build back. And people are still doing that. Buying houses, restoring the houses, and that's become a new thing now. People are buying them and renovating them and redoing them. And that's good because a lot of people, literally after Hurricane Sandy, picked up bag and baggage and left. And didn't look back. So that- that made it hard for the town. But I've noticed the influx of people that are coming here to buy houses, to buy on Smith Island. They are going there. I've seen a lot of that so, and the government is helping Smith Island build them up, too. So when you've got that, the more people that come, the more that buy the houses, the people that renovate the older houses, which are outstandingly gorgeous and- and are beautiful when they get done. And I know of several that are being done now. It- it helps Crisfield. It gives us the people back here, and it's replenishing, you know, for business and people wanting to make Crisfield their home, that you get to know everybody. And I- hopefully, everybody is happy with the local people. Try to be nice, you

know? But basically, that's about it. I mean, you know, as far as- as the storms and things like that go.

Golladay: What do you do, like, personally to prepare for, like flooding events?

Arnold: If at all, some people don't.

Green: Well, I have to. I've got so much in this store that I cannot stand the loss of that. So years ago, probably six years ago, seven, because I had moved from where I was at, and the- my husband was alive then and we managed all that together with friends. But I'd moved to here in this location, and this is not high. It's right on- on the ground, level with the pavement so that says enough right there. So when it's gonna come, it's going to come and you have to watch, I have to watch the weatherman very closely to tell me what is it gonna do. So I had approached my brother-in-law and asked him what should I do here? Cause it was different than this other place I was at, it was higher up. And I had asked him, I said, "Do I get, I've got concrete blocks." He said, "Why would you do that?" He said, "They're heavy." I said, "I know they're heavy, but that's all I've got!" and he says, "Well, we'll do milk crates." I said, "I have no milk crates," and he says, "Well I have milk crates!" Okay. So basically, you know, he went and got tables and that he borrowed tables, like your, you know, yard sale tables, brought them in for me to put stuff on it. He brought family and my family, they came in, I had friends, they came in. And with all of us together, and this was, I think this was gonna be Hurricane Florence, if I'm not mistaken. And it didn't amount to anything, but we had to, we lift everything in here by way of, you know, hell muscle and milk crates. Now I don't know if anybody else does that, but my brother-in-law had that brain storm. So we guard them like they're gold. And I mean that. So if I have storage, they're already up. Anything I have in storage is already on it. I don't have to touch that. So it's basically the- this kind of merchandise. So you basically have to pick up anything and if it's got a leg, I have one other little tip that we- I do, if it's gotta leg, in a pinch, you can take a garbage bag and slide the leg in it and tie it off. If you have trash can, slide the legs in the trash can of a table, whatever, and then stack everything on top of it so that you know, you just move everything off the floor and always, always make sure you unplug the electricity. That's a must, you know, definitely. Make sure you don't leave anything plugged in. But that's what I do. Now, is it easy? No. When after the storm, I almost say it's worse after the storm, because when the tide comes in, I've noticed that if I come up to the front door and I'm getting ready to come in to kind of look to see what damage I've got, you can look at the floor and it doesn't look like it's anything on it, but I have taken as high as a week to clean the tile floors. And I mean you scrub and then you dump and you scrub them and you scrub and you do this for like four or five days straight because it doesn't matter how much you scrub it. It is the grime, the gasoline, the oil and all that that comes out of that, water sticks to the tile floor like glue. So seriously it's a- it's a- and a hard work event because I've taken all day sometimes for three and four days. And you have to disinfect because of all that's gone on it. So you have disinfect for that as well. So that's usually the last step, you know, to disinfect once you've got all the grime and everything out of it. And

then you've gotta put everything back where it belongs. So a lot of work. That's why I- I pray when we don't get any of that because that's a lot and you're out of business before and after until you get it ready.

Golladay: So what do you see like other people do to like prepare to move this stuff around?

Green: I have, I'll be honest with you, I'm in my own little world. I have no idea what anyone else does to prepare, to be honest with you, I don't, I mean, I don't ask or anything like that. I mean, I see some people get sandbags; I find that they don't help me. I don't know if they would help somebody else. Because we've got more doors than you got, you know, in this building, it's just so many doors. And connecting and all that, so I don't bother to do that. And I remember the last tide that came in here was about six, seven inches. And a family member was helping me at the last minute to go around, check, make sure you got everything up. You got everything out of the way. You've got all the electric unplugged and all that. And she said, "We'd better hurry up." And I said, "yeah?" She said, "Yeh, it's coming in." So she could literally see it coming in, and, you know, we had our boots on. So we approached to the back door. And when I looked at the door, it was probably seven, eight inches on the door. I said, "You know, we're gonna let that in when I open this." And I went up almost, and this was a Nor'easter, if I'm not mistaken. They can be wicked, because the little road that's right next to me is 10th Street. When I went across, you could see wakes in the water. That's how much current was going through. And I told her, I said, "I got to walk through that, and I can't swim." She said, "I'll got you!" you know, so we were going to try to get to the car. And I have never seen anything in it like Ocean City waves, going across that, that's how hard that was blowing and deep for just that Nor'easter because certain areas are going to be deeper than others. But other than that, I don't know if anybody, well, I do know one thing they do. Everybody takes their cars and haul out a Dodge is what I call it. But no, they- they head to the Food Lion or to the Asbury Church, if you're in that section of town, because they know that doesn't flood. So they, and it used to be they'd let them take their cars up to Carvel Hall Cutlery, because that's huge. But I thought that was sold, so I don't know if they do that anymore. But that's basically it. They go, you go to higher ground with your vehicles.

Arnold: Do you feel that climate change is something in Crisfield people actively discuss or plan for?

Green: Nope. I don't, I don't know as anybody else does, to be honest with you. I think the only thing that we worry about is erosion. And- and just like us, Tangier Island, Smith Island, we all have that as figuring out how do you keep Mother Nature from eating away at the banks and the shorelines and all that, the erosion. Because I don't think the tide's any different. I mean, as far as how much it's gonna come up and all of that, we've always gotten it. I think it's more of that our streets, I've often wondered when they built everything here that they even knew that there was tides. They probably didn't. But you would think later in years that they would have realized that it was. And they still built on the ground. So I have never understood that part. And I remember

certain areas, certain neighborhoods. Even growing up, I remembered that there, you know, was the house that's right- right on the ground. And then there's the house, it's got a basement, you know. You didn't see many houses with basements, but there were some with basements. These people knew, I often wonder why the other people didn't, you know. Because there's a lot, even the businesses, most of them are right on the ground, so I mean, they have no- no high foundation. So I have never understood that one.

Arnold: How do you think the local economy, particularly industries like fishing, crabbing, and tourism, have changed?

Green: They've decreased a lot. There's no doubt that it's becoming an art that I don't know if the younger generations are getting involved with it or not, to be honest with you. The people that have done it all their lives, they've passed it down to their children and then their children, but I see less and less industry. It used to be, everywhere you looked, there was a, you know, a factory for taking your crabs and seafood and- and oysters or what have you, but you don't have as many of those anymore. Working places that people could go there and actually have a job. Everybody worked in the crab houses or the oyster houses. Not everybody worked in oyster houses, but lot of them did. I mean, they would shuck oysters or they would, you know, the men would have a lot of jobs. Crab houses in the summertime, a lot of women, and I'm one of them, I grew up in one. My mother and father worked in a seafood crab house and I grew up in it. So you- you wrapped and you dressed as soft crabs and that was just the normal. You never thought anything of it. I know they still do that. It's not as much. I think you still have people that still go out on their boats and -and- and crab and do that trying to harvest the- the, you know, the summer crop. But it's getting to the point that you can't find anybody that will be, you know, your hired help, that's gonna help you do shanty work, that's, you know, it's getting more work, less money. They're getting paid less money to spend more money to go out on that water. It's costing them probably double, triple, you know. You figure the maintaining of a boat engine, the cost of gasoline. The upkeep, your hired help, and- and where, you know, you rent to shed your crabs or- or, you know, that sort of thing is high. So at the end of the day, I don't know if they make as, you know, as much money as they're spending, and that makes it difficult so I- and I'm thinking a lot of the younger generations are choosing not to. So, sooner or later it makes me wonder if there'll be anyone in Crisfield left to crab unless you've got some that wants to come in and learn it and then do it. And if anything, it'll a- a not an occupation, it will be something they do for fun.

Golladay: What do you think about how the city or like state has handled flooding issues here in Crisfield?

Green: Not well, seriously. I mean, I'm not saying they haven't. They've probably given money, but I know they've given money the state has, and you know, for the upkeep after Sandy, but as far as the businesses go, no. That like you're on your own I ah. The infrastructure of Crisfield has needed the drainage system addressed for a long time, long, long. It's my understanding they've

got money to do that. How much, I don't know if it's going to be enough to do what they need to do. I'm not involved in that. So are there plans on what they're going to do and how they're gonna do it? But it- that has needed to be done. There are certain roads that need to be raised because they're like a soup bowl. What are, I mean, when it rains, you know, it's like, it's flooded. You don't have wait for a tide, just a rain. So those- those roads definitely need plumbing or something underground with drainage and raise those roads. So it's not gonna be a- an easy fix or a quick fix.

Arnold: All right, good, that's all right.

Golladay: Do you see yourself sticking around here in Crisfield?

Green: Well, I'm at the retirement age. You asked me earlier how many years I'd been here, I- I- I hesitate in telling anybody. I'm just thankful that I'm on this earth and I wake up every morning, but I don't plan on leaving or moving. I am happy where I live. I don't know if I'll be in this business that long. I'm looking to retire. So in that situation, when and if I find somebody that's interested in purchasing my store, I'm- I'm up for that. Because, as I said, I'm- I'm at that, close to 70 mark. And you think when you get to that point, you wonder, how many more years have I got? I've worked all my life, very little travel. And I think I want to spend my latter years doing that travel. But that doesn't mean I would leave Crisfield. If the- if a situation arose. I'm open, you know, to anything, but for me, by myself, as a- a single woman now, I don't plan on moving. I'll live in my home and because, I mean, I- I love it here, I always have. I'm not saying I wouldn't like it somewhere else. But like I said, if- if circumstances came about, I mean you know, because when I met my husband, he was from North Carolina, we had planned to move there. That's been over 30 years ago. And instead, he decided he wanted, and he was born and raised in North Carolina. But he decided when he met me, he was gonna come here and be here with me. So and we made a business here, we lived here, and then, and he enjoyed it so, until he passed. And so I don't really have any plans to, you know, leave. The advantage of Crisfield, not only is it beautiful, it has beautiful sunsets, it has, it's quaint. I love that, the quiet, the peacefulness, and we're close to everything. So if we want to go to Salisbury to dinner or to the movies or to the mall shopping or to all the other store shopping, we can do it. You're 45 minutes from there. You got Pocomoke City, 20 minutes, 25 minutes. I've said, if you wanna go to Lowe's, a quick run to Lowe's or to- to one of the neighboring stores or even go to a place to eat there. Chincoteague! You know, you're an hour a little over to Ocean City or Chincoteague, or Berlin. So we've got the best of all the worlds. I mean, we don't have the traffic and we've the peace and quiet and we've got the opportunity of seafood and the water and- and all of that and then we can go out of town and be there very quickly and spend an evening, if we need to. So I take advantage of that. Yeah.

Arnold: Are there any projects that are projected to happen here in Crisfield that you're excited about or are you hopeful for the future of Crisfield?

Green: Well, the projects, I know they've got this infrastructure situation that's in in the works. I'm excited over that because I know it needs it. It's needed it for a long time. And I hope it can be managed and done properly and- and be an asset to Crisfield because it needs it, desperately needs it. I love to see all the older homes, like I said, being bought and renovated rather than tear houses down and that they're built outstandingly well. The architecture is gorgeous. I don't believe in tearing down, and I've seen a lot of that going on, that they'll tear down a building before they'll preserve the building. I don't agree with that. I think you're taking away from the culture and the nature of the town and the historic value and I have never agreed with that. I think first and foremost the people that manage that should think of that first and if anything, have something in our rules and laws that you have to preserve that history at all cost. Because once you, you know, I mean, now I'm not against new. But in a little water town, it's nice to see the old and- and you can- you can- you can incorporate the old and the new, because I do it right here in my store. I mean, there's a way to do it. People say, well, you can't do it? Yes, you can do it, you know, and you can make it nice. So it just takes a little vision on that. And what was the last latter part of that question?

Arnold: Just were you hopeful for the future of Crisfield and where it's headed in the next 20 years?

Green: Well, I hope they'll bring some industry here. We need that to provide jobs because the only big job place here, other than our hospital, is Sherwin-Williams. That's managed to hold on. And that's the type of business that you're going to sell paintbrushes or paint or whatever else all over the world. So that's what we need. We need businesses that can give factories, let's put it that way. We need factories that doesn't, I don't care if it's making vacuum cleaners, that you can send it all over the United States or the world, but you can make it here and you can provide people with jobs. Because like I said, we had the Paul's Kitchen, which was the, you know, food. You had the cap factories and the sewing factories. Well, you don't have them anymore because people gonna go out and buy their clothes. I mean, somewhere else. But if they had factories that make items that you can ship all over the world doesn't have to be done for here, but we can be the- the- the base to make them. It would provide our citizens jobs. Jobs is what they need and not have to leave town to do it. Where the seafood industry is getting weaker and weaker on- on jobs. So that would take place instead of that.

Golladay: So would you- would you recommend Crisfield as like a place to live?

Green: Yeah, I definitely would, and like I said, we're low crime, we are low crime. I'm not saying we are escaped crime, but we are a low crime. Outstanding police force. I tell people all the time and joking, we're not a Barney Fife town. I mean, not many, I don't know if many people would know what that is, but a large police force and they're very good at what they do and friendly, helpful. So, I mean, and I commend them on that. You can't beat the view. So if you wanted, if you wanted a house on the water, if you wanted to condo, we've got those. If you

want small houses, I'm mean, like I said, not everywhere in Crisfield floods and there's certain areas, nice neighborhoods, that you could get a house or build a house or you could restore a house and you not have floods. You just got to know where it's at and a local can tell you. So I tell people, if you want to know, if you're looking to buy and you want know where it floods, is just ask a local. We live here. We know which road floods and what doesn't. And that gives them at least an opportunity if they see a house on a certain street that you're letting them know. I've had them call me and ask me, "I've saw this house on this street. Does it flood?" "Nope." But if they send me another, and then they'll ask me about another one, I'll say, "Yep, get your boots ready." That's just, if you buy there, you just will plan on it. So it's just where you're at. The closer to the water, the more it's gonna do it. There's no doubt about that. So I guess that being said, the person that comes here, if they prepare, the new person that's coming from a big city that doesn't have any clue or any idea of what they're getting into, my suggestion would be lease or rent a spot, a condo or something and get a feel of what you're dealing with before you purchase and if you look at it that way, you get to know it, you get to know the people, you get know how laid back it is. If you're okay with a couple stores that you can go in and get what you need, if you are okay with riding out of town sometimes to get something else. But the experience of knowing what you're dealing with, because you take people that are in a big city, they don't know what it is to- to live in a place like this. And I have friends that have bought, that are not from here, that have brought houses on Smith Island. That's another whole story. Because that is, they have to go by boat to get to that island. And are obligated by boat for transportation and the weather's bad, you know, it's one of those, you know, you're not going situation. They have to be helicoptered off of that island, if they have somebody that has a heart attack. I mean, you know, you got to get into your mindset of what you're dealing with, the area you're dealing with, and what advantages you've got and what disadvantages that you have. But a lot of people are they're- they're buying houses left and right, they're making bed and breakfasts, you know, Airbnb's, I mean, they are doing that. So it's new things that I have seen coming. The Airbnb's are the hot topic anymore so far. They're buying, one person might buy one, two, three houses and they'll renovate those houses and they will do the Airbnb's and making their money that way, so. It's- -it's a change, and I think they're good changes. So it's just a matter if people want to come to Crisfield, I don't think they could get a nicer place. It might not be as busy or as abundant in stores as where they came from. But it might be the other advantage that they don't have to, you know, they got the privacy, they got the quiet, they can do what they want. I mean, you know, and they've got the advantage of- of the wildlife and water and all that.

Arnold: What wisdom would you share with future generations? Doesn't have to be related at all to what we've talked about.

Green: I'll- I'll be honest with you. [pauses] Enjoy your culture, learn about it, the history of it, how your family or anyone's family, the hardships that they went through, how they worked, a good work ethic, being kind to everybody else, helpful if someone needs it. For future generations, I don't care where it's at, that's what they should be concentrating on. Helpfulness,

kindness and for those that, I'm gonna put it like this, for not everybody's made- made for college, let's put it that way, and if you're not, learn a trade. Because there's good money to be made in that, but you're going to work hard at it. But if you- if you want to learn to be an electrician, a plumber, I mean, you know, a mason, a carpenter, it's always needed. And- and I think that is- is would be my suggestion for the ones that just maybe don't have the finances for college. Maybe they don't, that isn't their thing, they just don't want to do that. That would bring more to the community than anything. Would be those kinds of people get younger generations learning how to do a trade and or- or- or be a cook, a restaurant. A lot of money involved with that. Not everybody knows it, but it's extreme a lot of money to run in that restaurant. So, I mean, if anybody jumped into that, they need to do their homework in regards to that, because that's not an easy situation. But any of the other would be an asset to them, their family, and to Crisfield because it's always something that's needed. Yeah.

Golladay: I guess just- just to wrap it up, since this is being preserved in our library center, is there anything that we haven't talked about regarding Crisfield that you really want people to know about?

Green: I think we've covered just about everything, most of it. I mean, I'm not saying there's probably something that I have missed, or something like that, but I think that we've cover quite a bit of and- and history. You know, I mean, there's a lot of churches, I will say that, 90% of them are Methodists. So we do have a lot of those and a nice library that's newly built and that's an asset to the community. There's no doubt about. I personally don't, I can't think of anything that we haven't touched on. I'm not saying we have, I mean, that there isn't something, but I- I think we've covered pretty much everything.

Arnold: Sounds good.

Golladay: Thank you very much, we really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to speak.

[Transcript ends]